



U P D A T E

St. Lucie County

August 15, 2008

**A Monthly Update
of Current Events
and Happenings
within St. Lucie
County**

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This update is published monthly by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners' Public Information Office. Direct inquiries to Ja' Net Pentz, Executive Assistant St. Lucie County 2300 Virginia Avenue Fort Pierce, FL 34982 772.462.1453 pentzj@co.st-lucie.fl.us

Board of County Commissioners Special Meetings & Workshops Scheduled

- The Tuesday, August 26 Regular Board of County Commissioners Meeting and the Tuesday, August 26 Informal Meeting have been canceled due to lack of quorum.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold the Preliminary Budget Public Hearing on Thursday, September 4 at 6 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold the Final Budget Hearing on Thursday, September 18 at 6 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold an Informal Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, September 23 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room 3.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold an Informal Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, October 28 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room 3.
- The November 4 Regular Board of County Commissioners Meeting has been canceled due to the General Election.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold the Annual Reorganization Meeting on Tuesday, November 18 at 9 a.m. in the County Commission Chambers.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold an Informal Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, November 25 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room 3.
- The December 23 Regular Board of County Commissioners Meeting has been canceled.

St. Lucie County Receives MLB Grant to Improve Dreamland Park

Improvements will soon be made to Martin Luther King Jr. - Dreamland Park thanks to a grant from Major League Baseball Charity's Baseball Tomorrow Fund Program. The St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners recently received a \$39,000 grant for baseball field renovations at the park. The Baseball Tomorrow Fund (BTF) is a joint initiative between Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association that was established in 1999 through a \$10 million commitment by Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association. The grant funding will be used, in conjunction with county matching funds, to reconstruct two baseball fields at Martin Luther King Jr. - Dreamland Park, including pitching mounds, home plates and baseline installations. Work is expected to begin in the coming weeks at the park, which is located on the west side of Martin Luther King Boulevard, just south of Orange Avenue. The project is expected to be finished by October.

Havert L. Fenn Center Ribbon Cutting

The Board of County Commissioners would like to invite the public to attend a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, September 18 at 1 p.m. Following the Ribbon Cutting there will be an Open House until 8 p.m. For more information, please call 462-1517.

St. Lucie County Announces Last Session of Swim Lessons for 2008

Registration is underway for the last session of swim lessons being offered for 2008 by the St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation Aquatic Division at the Port St. Lucie Community Pool. There are a number of morning and evening sessions available starting Aug. 26 through Sept. 25. Morning sessions will meet Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for two weeks, while evening sessions will meet Tuesday and Thursday for four weeks. The cost for the eight-lesson session is \$41. Scholarships are available based on income. For more information and details about times and sessions call the St. Lucie County Aquatic Division at (772) 871-2183 or stop by the Port St. Lucie Community Pool, 200 Ravenswood Lane, Port St. Lucie.

Port St. Lucie Branch Library Closes for Repairs

The Port St. Lucie Branch Library will be closed for interior painting from Monday, Aug. 18 at noon until Thursday, Aug. 21 at 1 p.m. The Port St. Lucie Branch Library is located at 180 SW Prima Vista Blvd., Port St. Lucie. For additional information, please call 871-5450. All other St. Lucie County branch libraries will be open for regularly scheduled hours during this time.

St. Lucie County Libraries Reduce Hours of Operation

Beginning Aug. 31, the Fort Pierce and Hurston Branch libraries will be closed all day on Mondays, the Lakewood Park and Port St. Lucie Branch libraries will be closed all day on Wednesdays, the Hurston Branch will close early on Thursdays and the Morningside Branch will be closed on Sundays.

The new hours of operation for the St. Lucie County Library System are:

- Sunday from 1 – 5 p.m. – Fort Pierce Branch Library.
- Monday from 9 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Morningside, Lakewood Park and Port St. Lucie Branch libraries.
- Tuesday from 9 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Fort Pierce, Morningside, Lakewood Park, Port St. Lucie and Hurston Branch libraries.
- Wednesday from 9 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Fort Pierce, Morningside and Hurston Branch libraries.
- Thursday from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Fort Pierce, Morningside, Lakewood Park, Port St. Lucie and Hurston Branch libraries.
- Friday from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. – Fort Pierce Branch Library.
- Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Morningside, Lakewood Park, Port St. Lucie and Hurston Branch libraries.
- Saturday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Fort Pierce, Morningside, Lakewood Park, Port St. Lucie and Hurston Branch libraries.

For information about the St. Lucie County Library System visit <http://www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us>.

St. Lucie Change A Light Campaign A Bright Success

Since its kick off on Earth Day, the “Change a Light St. Lucie” campaign has been highly successful. With a push from St. Lucie County’s Environmental Resources Department and the Oxbow Eco-Center, 445 people have pledged to change 1,927 light bulbs to energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL) in St. Lucie County. This commitment represents an energy cost savings of more than \$50,000 and eliminates almost 800,000 pounds of greenhouse gases. CFLs use 75 percent less energy than the incandescent bulbs and produce less heat. St. Lucie County’s Community Services Department has donated CFL bulbs to dozens of low-income families, including providing 77 bulbs to families through the Salvation Army. The Fort Pierce Utilities Authority is also a partner under the campaign, encouraging its customers to change a light by giving away CFLs. Some of the CFL bulbs given away by St. Lucie County were donated by the Wal-Mart Distribution Center. The Oxbow Eco-Center would like to encourage all residents and businesses to help promote the “Change a Light” campaign to their neighbors, employees and customers. To find out more about “Change a Light St. Lucie” visit www.stlucieco.gov and click on the information box in the upper right-hand corner. There is also a new section on the county’s website that offers easy and useful tips for “Going Green” on the homepage in the lower right-hand corner.

The Oxbow Eco-Center Revises Hours of Operation

The Oxbow Eco-Center, St. Lucie County’s premiere Environmental Learning Center, is adjusting its hours of operations for the education center adding an extra hour during the week and closing on Sundays, starting Aug. 24. The Oxbow’s new hours of operation are Tuesdays through Fridays from noon – 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Morning hours will continue to be utilized to host workshops, trainings and programs for schools or other groups. The gift shop is also closing, so be sure to take advantage of the 25-percent sale on all items. The nearly three miles of trails, boardwalks and observation decks that meander through the 225-acre preserve will remain open seven days a week during daylight hours for self-guided hikes. Situated on the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, the Oxbow is located at 5400 N.E. St. James Drive, Port St. Lucie (across from the Publix Shopping Center). For more information call the staff at (772) 785-5833 or visit www.stlucieco.gov/erd/oxbow.

The Historical Museum Reduces Hours of Operation

The St. Lucie County Historical Museum will be closed on Mondays. The Museum’s new hours will be Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information, please call 462-1891.

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